



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL HONORED FOR THEIR ROLE IN HELPING CRIME VICTIMS

Ceremony held in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

PHOENIX – In a ceremony here today, U.S. Attorney Daniel Knauss joined crime victims, victim advocates, and members of the public and law enforcement community to mark the 27th Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. U.S. Attorney Knauss honored criminal justice personnel who have gone above and beyond in helping victims of crime. He called on all Americans to take time this week to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and promote laws, policies and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.

U.S. Attorney Knauss stated: "This year's national theme 'Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time,' reminds us of the scope of the Crime Victims Rights Act and the duty our criminal justice system owes to crime victims. It also reminds us of our own duty toward victims and our need to create a legal culture in which victims are respected and heard."

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws, including Arizona; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country. Every state has a crime victim compensation fund, and powerful federal laws, such as the Violence Against Women Act and the Crime Victims' Rights Act, help protect victims and fund needed services.

Since 1997, the U.S. Attorney's Office has commemorated National Crime Victim's Rights Week by recognizing individuals and agencies in Arizona who show dedication and commitment to serving federal crime victims in many capacities. It is important to point out that the individuals recognized here today were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the call of their individual professions in serving crime victims crime victims. These individuals set the standard for each of us:

The following personnel from the Criminal Justice community were honored for going beyond the call of duty:

Detective Karin Ashby, Tohono O'odham Police Department: Detective Ashby serves in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Tohono O'odham Police Department where she is dedicated to sex and child related crimes. Detective Ashby maintains the Sex Offender Registry and she enforces violations of persons failing to register. This has proven to present special challenges because of the proximity to the border with Mexico and the need to address violators from two nations. Despite this

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demanding workload Detective Ashby has been a leader in providing Crisis Intervention to crime victims throughout her jurisdiction. She consistently goes beyond the call of duty to reach out to victims in crisis exhibiting a level of compassion and dedication that truly defines the goal of serving every victim every time.

The Drug Enforcement Administration - Phoenix Field Division: The Phoenix Field Division of the DEA again and again has demonstrated its focus on vigorously fighting for the rights of victims. No where is this more clear than in the Division's dedication to pursue justice for the murder of Special Agent Richard Fass. SA Fass was murdered by the Vasquez-Mendoza gang on June 30, 1994. The Phoenix Field Division pursued an 11 year long investigation which led to locating, arresting, extraditing, and successfully prosecuting Vasquez-Mendoza. Throughout the criminal justice process the Phoenix Field Division provided unprecedented assistance to victims and witnesses. This assistance extended to 24 hour security for victim's family members and installing a video feed from the courtroom in Phoenix to the residence of SA Fass' elderly mother in Tucson so she could observe the trial. The efforts of the PFD went far above and beyond the call of duty to pursue justice and protect the rights of the victims.

Vincent Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona: Assistant U.S. Attorney Vince Kirby has consistently demonstrated his attention to the rights of victims. His advocacy for the rights of victims was made clear during his recent prosecution of a child molester who followed his crimes with a spree of violence. Throughout the trial Mr. Kirby took special care to make sure that the victims were informed about the status of the trial. He met with the victims every day and informed them of the details of the trial and the possible outcomes and legal issues. The defendant was convicted of murder, robbery, and sex offenses. AUSA Kirby met with the victims and their families before sentencing to advise them of their rights during the sentencing proceedings. He spoke for the family members who could not attend the sentencing. After sentencing, he took time to explain the appeals process. AUSA Kirby's dedication, knowledge, and ability to interact successfully with victims from all walks of life make him deserving of this special recognition.

Brian F. Kobel, Special Agent, FBI Phoenix Office: Special Agent Brian Kobel has developed a comprehension and appreciation of Native American culture that has allowed him to reach out to Native American crime victims in unprecedented ways. In case after case, SA Kobel has shown a sensitivity to victims that has set a standard throughout our justice system. He has reached out to victims and their families to show a deep caring and compassion for their trauma and grief. SA Kobel makes a significant difference in the lives of the victims' families in his cases through his compassionate advocacy, his communication with victims, and his customary attendance at court proceedings. His advocacy for victims begins when he first meets with the AUSA on a case and continues through the last sentencing proceeding. In his work he demonstrates how our system can bring dignity and respect to victims of crime.

Jason Van Goor, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Tucson Office: Special Agent Jason Van Goor has been assigned to some of the most difficult cases in the District. In his work with child victims of crimes he knows how important it is to meet with children in their own comfort zone. SA Van Goor has a special gift when it comes to working with children. His ability to speak with children in a non-threatening, non-judgmental manner is a hallmark of his victim-centered approach to our justice system. Special Agent Van Goor has proven his willingness to spend the time it takes to get his cases investigated with special concerns for the well being of the victims in his cases. He

takes a special interest in how the victims of his cases are doing and what can be done to help them cope with the investigation throughout the prosecution of a case. SA Van Goor works to liaison with many different agencies and to protect and assist young victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. SA Van Goor is always current on the necessary paperwork to submit for the Victim Notification system entry so that the USAO will have the correct victim information up to date on each case. SA Van Goor is deserving of this special recognition for putting victims first in every case, every time.

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